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HEALTH
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BOROUGH of WAREHAM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1957



PREFACE

Public Health Office,
12a, Institute Road
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Wareham

Madam Mayor, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1957.

The Report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	<u>Pages</u>
Statistics	1 - 2
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Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease	10 -
Factories Act	11 -

The health of the Borough generally speaking remained satisfactory throughout the year, except for the prevalence of Asian influenza during October and November. There were no serious cases of notifiable infectious disease.

The mid year estimated population figure is the same as that for the Census in 1951. Births were 9 more than the previous year, and the total deaths registered were only 42 compared with 70 in 1956.

The housing situation remains substantially the same as in 1956. There are still the young families who have to wait unduly long for a home of their own.

The inadequacy of the present sewerage works has again been pointed out and it is hoped that a solution will be found to this difficult problem.

Once again I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the year, and to thank the other Officials of the Council for their help and co-operation, especially your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Tanner, who has helped to prepare this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant

E. J. O'KEEFE

Medical Officer of Health

October, 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. R. Tanner, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments -

Medical Officer of Health for the Swanage Urban District
Medical Officer of Health for the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District
Assistant Medical Officer, Dorset County Council

Office accommodation and clerical assistance is provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

The Public Health Inspector in addition to his statutory duties is also Borough Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health are -

The Law and General Purposes Committee
The Waterworks and Sewerage Works Committee
The Housing Committee.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

1.	Area of the Borough	...	...	...	710 acres
2.	Population -				
	At Census 1951	...	...	...	2,760
	As estimated by Registrar General -			mid 1956	2,750
				mid 1957	2,760
3.	Total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book -				
				At end of 1956	855
				At end of 1957	852
4.	Rateable value at 1st. April, 1957		...		£28,751
5.	Sum represented by Penny Rate at 31st. March 1957				£126.9.4d.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>					
Total registered.	...	...	46	21	25
Legitimate	...	...	45	20	25
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	1
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total registered	...	...	-	-	-
Legitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>					
Total registered	...	...	42	16	26
<u>Infant Mortality</u>					
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	2	1	1
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age</u>					
Total registered	...	...	1	-	1
Legitimate	...	...	1	-	1
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1957

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population 16.7

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home population 15.2

Area Comparability Factors

Births 1.10 Deaths 0.39

	<u>Wareham Borough</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population	18.3	16.1
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Total(Live & Still Births)	-	22.4
Death Rate, per 1,000 Home Population	5.9	11.5
Infant Mortality rates per 1,000 Live Births - all causes under 1 year of age	43.5	23.0

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1957

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

Cause of Death						Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
8	Measles	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
15	Leukemia, aleukemia	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	5	6	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
20	Other heart diseases	..	..	..	..	1	8	9
21	Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
22	Influenza	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
33	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
34	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
35	Suicide	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total						16	26	42

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

There has been no general change in the source of water during the year. The new 9" main installed during 1956 continued to give adequate gravitational pressures throughout the Borough without the need for boosting. Occasional complaints were received of poor pressures but on investigation these were found to be due to corroded service pipes and in most cases were renewed.

The daily consumption during June increased to 198,000 gallons owing to a prolonged dry spell, and during July and August the average was 187,000 gallons. Householders were asked to exercise strict economy during these periods.

The average pumping rate over the year was 10,900 gallons per hour. The quality of the water remains very satisfactory and only very occasionally was a sample unsatisfactory, this being possibly due to defects in collection and testing.

Discussions continued during the year towards the formation of a Water Board, and by the end of the year agreement had more or less been reached by most of the Authorities who would be participating in this Board.

The average daily consumption of water was approximately 173,300 gallons.

Wareham Borough Council	..	..	146,000 gallons
British Railways	..	..	15,100 "
Wareham & Purbeck Rural District Council			12,200 "

Water Supply to Houses in the Borough

	<u>Percentage of</u> <u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Percentage of</u> <u>Population</u>
<u>From Public Mains</u>		
(a) Direct to dwelling houses	98.86	99.08
(b) By means of standpipe	0.71	0.44
<u>From Private wells</u>		
Direct to dwelling houses	0.43	0.48

Bacteriological Examination of Water

Public Supply

Probable number of B.Coli MacConkey 2 days, 37°C per 100 ml	No. of Samples			
	Treated Water 56		Untreated Water 5	
	Total Coli	Faecal Coli	Total Coli	Faecal Coli
Nil	50	55	5	5
1	5	1	-	-
3	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-

CHEMICAL ANALYSESCertificate of Analysis of a sample of Untreated Water - Worgret Waterworks

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, free	..	..	..	..	0.104
Ammonia Albuminoid..	..	..	..	..	0.121
Nitrites ..	..	..	..	..	0.019
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	2.23
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F	..	..	..	..	1.11
" " " 4 hours " "	..	..	..	..	2.12
Chlorine ..	..	..	..	..	22.4
as Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	..	37.0
Hardness, temporary	..	..	..	..	58.6
" permanent	..	..	..	..	6.2
" total	..	..	..	..	64.8
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	182.0
pH value	..	..	..	..	6.3

Metals: Iron 1.25 p.p.m. Copper 0.02 p.p.m. Lead & Zinc absent

Appearance: Yellow and very slightly turbid. Colour No.7.

Odour: None

Free Chlorine

Free Carbon Dioxide 79.0 p.p.m.

Remarks: This water is acid in character and contains a high amount of carbon dioxide, and as a raw water would be corrosive in its action on metals. The quantity of organic matter present is not excessive, and the above results, from a chemical point of view, give no indication of pollution having taken place.

(Signed) ARTHUR S. CARLOS.
Public Analyst.

Certificate of Analysis of a sample of Treated Water.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as parts per million

Ammonia, free	..	..	..	..	0.049
" Albuminoid	..	..	..	..	0.058
Nitrites ..	..	..	..	..	0.008
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	1.86
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F.	..	..	..	..	0.64
" " " 4 hours " "	..	..	..	..	1.27
Chlorine ..	..	..	..	..	18.5
as Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	..	30.5
Hardness, temporary	..	..	..	..	76.8
" permanent	..	..	..	..	11.5
" total	..	..	..	..	88.3
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	193.0
pH value	..	..	..	..	6.7

Metals: Iron Nil. Copper faint trace. Lead & zinc nil

Appearance: Very pale yellow & clear. Colour No.2.

Odour: None

Free Chlorine:

Free Carbon Dioxide 6.0

Remarks: The above analysis shows that this is a moderately soft water, acid in character, and contains some, but not an undue amount of organic matter. The Carbon Dioxide content is moderate.

In my opinion this is a very satisfactory water for both drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. CARLOS
Public Analyst.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The sewerage system in addition to serving the Borough receives sewage from 59 houses on the Bestwall Area of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council. There were no major extensions to the sewerage system or the disposal works.

During the year more lagoons were excavated and in addition a small percolating filter was constructed through which the overspill, of all the lagoons, was discharged. During very dry weather there would be no discharge from the works, but during heavy rain it would be possible to direct the discharge through this filter; the next year should see the completion of the lagoons.

At certain times when the wind was south-easterly complaints were received from the housing development along the Sandford Road. I would again reiterate what I reported in my last annual report viz. that the works are gradually becoming overloaded and improvements would appear inevitable; increased housing development will tend to aggravate this still more. I understand, however, that negotiations have been instituted with the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council with a view to a combined scheme for the Borough and the parish of Sandford on a new site situated further from housing development.

No serious flooding has occurred at the Quay and the minor works carried out there appear to have been effective.

No. of houses not connected to the sewer	12
No. of houses with pail-closets	5
No. of houses with cesspools	7
No. of pail-closets abolished during the year	1
No. of cesspools abolished	-
No. of houses connected to the sewer	4

Drainage works carried out

New drainage systems replacing those unsatisfactory 1
Sewers and drains cleaned.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREASummary of Inspections

Bakehouses	8	Housing (General)	654
Building Byelaws	60	Infectious Disease	3
Butchers Shops	5	Public Lavatories	28
Cafes	15	Public Health Acts	16
Caravan Site	8	Rodent Control	2
Dairies	2	Refuse Collection	2
Drainage	44	Samples - Water, Bact.	64
Food Premises	22	" Chem.	2
Food Inspection	9	Sewage Disposal Works	38
Factories	16	and Sewerage	
Housing (Housing Acts)	52	Water Supply	53
		Miscellaneous	329

Total 1,432

Statutory and Informal Notices

<u>Notices</u>	<u>Number Served</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Informal	5	5	-
Statutory	-	-	-

Disinfection

There was no disinfection carried out during the year.

Control of Moveable Dwellings

Regular visits were made to the one caravan site in the Borough and this was well maintained. The sewage plant now functions satisfactorily.

Verminous Premises

There were no cases of verminous premises reported during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

House and trade refuse collection is undertaken by the Council and collections are made weekly. The tip is situated in the adjoining Rural District.

Street Cleansing

The main streets are cleansed and swept daily and the minor streets as often as possible. Despite the publicity made with regard to litter, there appears to be little improvement in this connection, and the day seems as far off as ever for a reduction in this service. Perhaps the new Litter Act will have the desired effect.

Swimming Baths

There is only one swimming bath in the Borough at the County Secondary Modern School for the use of pupils. Bathing takes place in the River Frome near the Quay during summer months. Some samples were taken at various times of the tide and all these were heavily polluted, less so at high tide. There are no standards for river water.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the Borough is either 'Pasteurised', 'Tuberculin Tested pasteurised' or 'Tuberculin Tested', as the Borough is part of a specified area under Section 45 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Number of Milk Distributors on Register 31.12.57 ... 9

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949

The following Licences were renewed by the Council and were in force at the end of the year:-

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk (pasteurised)	- 7
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	- 2
Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	- 1

Milk Sampling

The following are particulars of milk samples taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority for examination:-

Designation	No. of Samples	Results of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	9	9	-	9	-

Food Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Tinned Goods	1	1	19
Meat:- Beef			26
Bacon			47½
Fish			7½

Food Premises

1. Number of Food Premises by Type of Business in the Area

Grocers	10	Fish Shops	4
Greengrocers	4	Fried Fish Shops	3
Butchers	5	Sweets & Confectionery	5
Dairies	1	Cafes & Restaurants	7
Bakehouses	1	Licensed premises	11
		(Including 3 Hotels)	

2. Number of Food Premises by Type Registered(a) Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods	8
Fish Frying	3
Sale of Ice-Cream	17

(b) Under Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairy Premises	1
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3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacturing sausages	7
Fish Frying Premises	2
Ice-Cream Premises	14
Dairy Premises	2

Inspection of Food Premises, Cafes, etc.

During the year further improvements were carried out to some of the food premises to bring them into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Frequent visits were made to these establishments and efforts are being made to improve still more the standard of food hygiene.

Informal notices served during the year - 7

H O U S I N G

Three private houses were erected during the year but no Council houses. Plans were approved for a new private estate for some 80 buildings. During the year the Council commenced improvements at 14 pre-war Council houses; all houses now have a bathroom and all but 24 have hot water systems and an internal W.C.

During the year a further 3 dwellings were improved with grant aid provided under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

The following shows the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses:-

Persons residing in the Borough	39
Persons residing outside the Borough	12
Aged persons (Borough bungalows)	34

For the past two years only three houses have been built in the Borough, and at the end of 1957 there was an increase of 10 applicants on the list of persons residing in the Borough waiting for Council houses. I would like to bring to the notice of the Council the need of newly weds and young families who have no home of their own. These I regard as one of the most urgent categories for rehousing and should continue to be given priority when suitable accommodation becomes available.

Housing Programme

<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of Houses Proposed</u>	<u>Completed in 1957</u>	<u>Completed since 1945</u>
Bere Road (Kingsbere Estate)	137	-	116
Moreton's Lane	10	-	10
* Cockpits Housing Site	2	-	2
* Red Lion Garden Site	4	-	4
* Moreton's Lane Housing Site	2	-	2
* Howards Lane Site	3	-	3
* Ropers Lane Site	8	-	8

(* Borough bungalows)

New Houses

Total number erected during 1957 3

Number erected with State assistance -

(a) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	Nil

Houses Owned by Local Authority

<u>Type</u>	<u>Built pre-war</u>	<u>Built since 1945</u>	<u>Total</u>
Permanent	103	135	238
Prefabricated bungalows	-	10	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were few cases of notifiable infectious disease in the Borough during the year, and apart from two cases of respiratory tuberculosis and two of pneumonia none were serious enough to require admission to hospital.

No cases of acute poliomyelitis, food poisoning or dysentery were notified.

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease apart from two due to pneumonia.

In common with the rest of the Country a relatively mild form of influenza was prevalent in the district during October and November. Two deaths were registered as due to influenza during the year, compared with one in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The local health authority continued the vaccination of children under a scheme initiated by the Ministry of Health, and during the year 190 children living in the district, born between 1947 - 1956, were given a course of two injections by the District Medical Officer, compared with 16 in the previous year.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	Total	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Admitted to Hospital
Whooping cough	10	6	4	-	-	-
Measles	23	-	6	1	16	-
Acute pneumonia	5	1	-	4	-	2
Tuberculosis - respiratory	2	1	1	-	-	2
" other	1	-	1	-	-	-

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1957

Disease	Total	Age Groups									
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25&Ov.	A.U.
Whooping cough	10	-	2	-	-	1	6	-	1	-	-
Measles	23	-	3	-	2	2	15	-	-	-	1
Ac. Pneumonia	5	Under 5	5 - 14		15 - 44		45-64	65 & Ov.		A.U.	
		2	-		-		1	1		1	
Tuberculosis - respiratory	2	Under 5	5-14	15-24		25-44	45-64	65 & Ov		U.A.	
		-	-	-		-	1	1		-	
" - other	1	-	-	-		-	1	-		-	

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There was one case of scabies and no case of verminous condition reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of
Care and attention to suitable premises

It was not necessary to take action under this section of the Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	15	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	34	16	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re-medied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

Part VIII of the ActOUTWORKSection 110 and 111

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August List reqd. by Sec. 110(1)(e)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply Lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	NoticesPro-served secu-tions
Wearing apparel (making etc. cleaning & washing)	2	-	-	-	-

